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flesh. For many of the migratory species detailed records are given of the spring arrivals. The list is thus a welcome addition to an exact knowledge of bird distribution in Pennsylvania. — J. A. A.

**Grinnell on the Birds of Santa Barbara, San Nicolas and San Clemente Islands, California.**<sup>1</sup>— This 'Report' forms the first of a series of papers giving the results of the work of a scientific exploring party to the southern Santa Barbara Islands, sent out by the Pasadena Academy of Sciences, in charge of Mr. Grinnell, and mainly through the generosity of Mr. Halett C. Merritt. It also is noteworthy as forming the first brochure of this young Academy. Mr. Grinnell was assisted in his ornithological work by Mr. Horace Gaylord. The report is based on the field notes of the party and on a collection of 450 birds' skins and many eggs, and consists of four separate lists, as follows: (1) 'The Land-Birds observed [May 13-18] on Santa Barbara Island,' numbering 14 species; (2) 'Land-Birds observed [May 19-26] on San Nicolas Islands,' numbering 9 species; (3) 'Land-Birds observed [May 29-June 7] on San Clemente Island,' numbering 25 species; (4) Entire list of Water-Birds observed,' numbering 24 species. These lists are quite fully annotated, and give much interesting information regarding the breeding habits of many of the species observed. One new species (*Pipilo clemente* Grinnell, described in this journal (Vol. XIV, p. 294), was secured, and it is suggested that the Rock Wren observed on San Nicolas Island is worthy of separation from the mainland bird "as a new species." The trip was made during the interval from May 11 to June 9, but the birds observed on a previous trip to San Clemente, March 26 to April 4, are also included. The notes on several of the Water Birds are of special interest. — J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup>Report on the Birds recorded during a visit to the Islands of Santa Barbara, San Nicolas and San Clemente, in the spring of 1897. By Joseph Grinnell. 'Publication No. 1' of the Pasadena (California) Academy of Sciences. 8vo, pp. 26. August, 1897.

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**Shelley, G. E.** On the Birds collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F. Z. S., during his Expedition to the Nyika Plateau in North Nyasaland. With an Introduction by P. L. Sclater. (Ibis, Oct., 1897.)

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**American Naturalist**, Oct.-Dec., 1897.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Habits of the Maryland Yellow-throat.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs:*—If the correspondence pages of 'The Auk' are open to minor matters of this kind, I should like to ask if the note on 'Peculiar Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat' by Mr. Walton I. Whitehill<sup>1</sup> in the October issue of 1897 makes a correct statement in regard to the Maryland Yellow-throats of Minnesota when it says "the nests are usually to be found in dense woods far from water." This is certainly diametrically opposite to the habits of this bird in the eastern part of its range, for here in New England I am sure that all observers will bear me out in saying that *Geothlypis trichas* is very rarely and perhaps *never* found breeding at any distance from water.

Yours very truly,

FRANCIS H. ALLEN.

*West Roxbury, Mass.*

### The Fauna of Muskeget Island — A Protest.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs:*—In a recent paper on the Terns of Muskeget Island,<sup>2</sup> Mr. George H. Mackay records the extermination of a family of Short-eared Owls that had established themselves on the island during the summer

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<sup>1</sup>[For WHITEHILL read MITCHELL, Whitehill having been printed through error. — EDD.]

<sup>2</sup> Auk, XIV, pp. 380-390. October, 1897.